



Little Tokyo Community Council

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The Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC) would like to re-iterate that no position has been taken regarding the presented options for Parker Center. While the community has reached consensus on a number of important issue areas that we do not have a position on any particular option.

Additionally, due to the proximity of Parker Center to the Little Tokyo Community, nonprofits, businesses, residents and other stakeholders must be kept in better communication regarding the future of this site. We were not notified of the Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting held on April 28, 2015, and have not been formally reached out to since the Environmental Hearings back in late 2013/early 2014.

Here is the previous letter issue back in late 2013:

The entire block which today holds the Parker Center was taken from Little Tokyo in the 1960s destroying many family-owned & community-serving businesses, 700-1,000 units of affordable housing, and community facilities including the early site of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and other important community institutions. In their renovations, the City plans to use upper floors of the building for City offices. The bottom floor could accommodate community-enhancing retail businesses.

Therefore:

- Retail planned for the ground floor should reflect businesses that complement and create a natural connection with Little Tokyo, especially to Union Center for the Arts and to drive people to businesses on Historic First Street and complement future development on First Street North that will now reflect Little Tokyo's vision for a Sustainable Little Tokyo. A design will not be acceptable if it "turns its back" on Little Tokyo;
- Public art should be funded that reflects the historic connection of the block to Little Tokyo.
- Additional parking must be included in plans for the L.A. Street Civic Building to accommodate City employees to be housed in the new facility. Current parking, especially in the Aiso Street lot was designed to primarily serve local small businesses. Additional parking for the general public should also be included, given the rapid decrease in available public parking lots around the Little Tokyo and Civic Center area.
- There will be communication and action around the planning and design of the new building in concert with the Little Tokyo community's own vision for the development of the First Street North block and other Sustainable Little Tokyo plans.

Sincerely,

Craig Ishii
Chair, Little Tokyo Community Council

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which has 90+member organizations whose mission is to ensure that Little Tokyo would be a viable center for the Japanese American community and the Los Angeles Downtown community. The Council shall work to create a vision of what Little Tokyo should be in the future and serve as an advocate on behalf of the Little Tokyo community.